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## NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

26161 7590 03/18/2011 FISH & RICHARDSON P.C. (BO) P.O. BOX 1022 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55440-1022 EXAMINER

SZPERKA, MICHAEL EDWARD

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1644

DATE MAILED: 03/18/2011

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/575,193	10/24/2006	Kunihiro Hattori	14875-160US1 C1-A0313P3-IJ	1979

TITLE OF INVENTION: BISPECIFIC ANTIBODY SUBSTITUTING FOR FUNCTIONAL PROTEINS

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	06/20/2011

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN <u>THREE MONTHS</u> FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. <u>THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.</u> SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

#### HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

#### PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

#### Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail Mail Stop ISSUE FEE

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

or <u>Fax</u> (571)-273-2885

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where

appropriate. All further of indicated unless correcte maintenance fee notificat	correspondence includir d below or directed oth ions.	ng the Patent, advance on nerwise in Block 1, by (a	rders and notification of r a) specifying a new corres	maintenance fees wi spondence address;	ll be r and/or	nailed to the current (b) indicating a sepa	correspondence address as rate "FEE ADDRESS" for
<sup>26161</sup> FISH & RICHA P.O. BOX 1022	7590 03/18 ARDSON P.C. (B	pape have	ers. Each additional e its own certificate Cert	paper, of mail i <b>ficate</b>	such as an assignmending or transmission.  of Mailing or Transi	r domestic mailings of the or any other accompanying at or formal drawing, must mission deposited with the United t class mail in an envelope above, or being facsimile te indicated below.	
							(Depositor's name)
							(Signature)
							(Date)
APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE		FIRST NAMED INVENTOR		ATTO	RNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/575,193 ITTLE OF INVENTION:	10/24/2006 BISPECIFIC ANTIBO	DY SUBSTITUTING FO	Kunihiro Hattori DR FUNCTIONAL PROTI	EINS		4875-160US1 21-A0313P3-U	1979
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nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	•	\$1810	06/20/2011
EXAM	INER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS	1			
SZPERKA, MICHAEL EDWARD		1644	424-136100	ı			
"Fee Address" indi PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-0: Number is required.  3. ASSIGNEE NAME AN PLEASE NOTE: Unlo	ess an assignee is ident n in 37 CFR 3.11. Comp	"Indication form ed. Use of a Customer  A TO BE PRINTED ON Tiffied below, no assignee	or agents OR, alternative (2) the name of a single registered attorney or a 2 registered patent attored listed, no name will be THE PATENT (print or type data will appear on the part a substitute for filing an (B) RESIDENCE: (CITY)	e firm (having as a agent) and the name rneys or agents. If n printed.  De)  atent. If an assigne assignment.	s of up o name	entified below, the do	ocument has been filed for
			<u> </u>				up entity Government
4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:  ☐ Issue Fee ☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted) ☐ Advance Order - # of Copies			4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)  ☐ A check is enclosed. ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached. ☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number (enclose an extra copy of this form).				
**	SMALL ENTITY state	ıs. See 37 CFR 1.27.	☐ b. Applicant is no long				
NOTE: The Issue Fee and interest as shown by the r	l Publication Fee (if requeecords of the United Sta	uired) will not be accepted tes Patent and Trademark	d from anyone other than to Office.	he applicant; a regis	tered a	ttorney or agent; or th	e assignee or other party in
Authorized Signature				Date			
Typed or printed name				•			
This collection of information application. Confident submitting the completed this form and/or suggestion.	ntion is required by 37 C iality is governed by 35 application form to the ons for reducing this but	FR 1.311. The informatic U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR USPTO. Time will vary rden, should be sent to the	on is required to obtain or r 1.14. This collection is est depending upon the indive e Chief Information Office	retain a benefit by the imated to take 12 midual case. Any correct, U.S. Appending 1	e publi inutes nments 'radem	to which is to file (and to complete, including s on the amount of tin ark Office, U.S. Depa	by the USPTO to process) g gathering, preparing, and ne you require to complete urtment of Commerce, P.O.

Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450,

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90 03/18/2011		EXAMINER		
FISH & RICHARDSON P.C. (BO)			SZPERKA, MICHAEL EDWARD	
IN 55440-1022		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		1644		
	10/24/2006	10/24/2006 Kunihiro Hattori 00 03/18/2011 DSON P.C. (BO)	10/24/2006 Kunihiro Hattori 14875-160US1 C1-A0313P3-U EXAM DSON P.C. (BO) SZPERKA, MICE  ART UNIT	

## Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)

(application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 273 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 273 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (http://pair.uspto.gov).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

### **Privacy Act Statement**

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

- 1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether disclosure of these records is required by the Freedom of Information Act.
- 2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
- 3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
- 4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
- 5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
- 6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
- 7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
- 8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
- 9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/575 100		
Notice of Allowability	10/575,193 <b>Examiner</b>	HATTORI ET AL. Art Unit	
•			
	MICHAEL SZPERKA	1644	
The MAILING DATE of this communication appeal claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT R of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313	(OR REMAINS) CLOSED in or other appropriate commu IGHTS. This application is su	this application. If not included nication will be mailed in due course. <b>THIS</b>	
1. $\boxtimes$ This communication is responsive to <u>22 December 2010</u> .			
2. X The allowed claim(s) is/are 6-14,16-20 and 22-32.			
<ul> <li>3.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority unally a)  All b)  Some* c)  None of the:</li> <li>1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have</li> </ul>		r (f).	
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have		n No.	
3. ☑ Copies of the certified copies of the priority do	• •		
International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).		3 11	
* Certified copies not received:			
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONN THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.	MENT of this application.		
<ol> <li>A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be subm INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which giv</li> </ol>			
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must	st be submitted.		
(a) $\square$ including changes required by the Notice of Draftspers	son's Patent Drawing Review	( PTO-948) attached	
1) 🔲 hereto or 2) 🔲 to Paper No./Mail Date	•		
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner' Paper No./Mail Date	s Amendment / Comment or	in the Office action of	
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1 each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in t			
<ol> <li>DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT</li> </ol>			
Attachment(s)	5 Notice of Inf	ormal Potant Application	
<ol> <li>Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)</li> <li>D Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)</li> </ol>		ormal Patent Application mmary (PTO-413),	
	Paper No./N	Mail Date	
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 6/26/09, 7/30/10, 12/22/10	7. 🔲 Examiner's A	Amendment/Comment	
4.   Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit	8. 🔲 Examiner's S	Statement of Reasons for Allowance	
of Biological Material	9. 🔲 Other		
/Michael Szperka/			
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1644			

Art Unit: 1644

#### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on December 22, 2010 has been entered.

Claims 1-5, 15, and 21 have been canceled.

Claims 6-8, 14, 16-18, 20, and 22-29 have been amended.

Claims 30-32 have been added.

Claims 6-14, 16-20, 22-32 are pending in the instant application.

Claims 14, 17, and 19 stand withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a nonelected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03, for reasons of record set forth in the restriction requirement mailed March 24, 2009.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-13, 16, 18, and 20-29 are under examination in this office action.

#### Information Disclosure Statement

2. The IDS forms received 7/30/10 and 12/22/10 are acknowledged and have been considered.

### Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

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4. The rejection of claims 1-3, 4, 7-13, 16, 18 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement has been withdrawn in view of applicant's claim amendments received December 22, 2010.

## Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

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This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. The rejection of claims 1, 3, 4, 7-13, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scheiflinger et al. (US Patent 7,033,590, of record) in view of Paulus (US Patent 4,444,878, of record) has been withdrawn in view of applicant's claim amendments received December 22, 2010.

Specifically, all of the presently claimed antibody constructs require specific polypeptide sequences recited by SEQ ID number which are not disclosed by and are not obvious in view of the prior art.

7. The rejection of claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scheiflinger et al. (US Patent 7,033,590, of record) in view of Paulus (US Patent 4,444,878, of record) as applied to claims 1-4 and 7-13 above, and further in view of Zuk et al. (US Patent 4,208,479) has been withdrawn in view of applicant's claim amendments received December 22, 2010 as has been discussed above.

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8. The rejection of claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scheiflinger et al. (US Patent 7,033,590, of record) in view of Paulus (US Patent 4,444,878, of record) and in view of Zuk et al. (US Patent 4,208,479) as applied to claims 1-4, 7-13, and 16 above, and further in view of Lollar et al. (US patent 5,744,446) has been withdrawn in view of applicant's claim amendments received December 22, 2010 as has been discussed above.

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# **Double Patenting**

9. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

10. The provisional rejection of claims 1, 3-4, 6-13, 16, 18, and 20- on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-8, 17, 19, 22, 25, 28, 29, 36, and 38 of copending Application No. 11/910,836 has been withdrawn in view of the fact that no other rejections are pending, the copending claims have not issued, and the copending application was filed after the instant application.

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Thus, the copending application is a later filed application and therefore the claims of the instant application have been allowed to issue.

11. A rejection based on double patenting of the "same invention" type finds its support in the language of 35 U.S.C. 101 which states that "whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process ... may obtain a patent therefor ..." (Emphasis added). Thus, the term "same invention," in this context, means an invention drawn to identical subject matter. See *Miller v. Eagle Mfg. Co.*, 151 U.S. 186 (1894); *In re Ockert*, 245 F.2d 467, 114 USPQ 330 (CCPA 1957); and *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970).

A statutory type (35 U.S.C. 101) double patenting rejection can be overcome by canceling or amending the conflicting claims so they are no longer coextensive in scope. The filing of a terminal disclaimer <u>cannot</u> overcome a double patenting rejection based upon 35 U.S.C. 101.

- 12. The provisional rejection of claims 1-13, 15, 16, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 23-35, 37, and 38 of copending Application No. 10/575,905 has been withdrawn because the conflicting claims in the copending application have been canceled and no new claims directed to the subject matter of the instant invention have been presented in the copending application.
- 13. The provisional rejection of claims 20-29 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 23-35, 37, and 38 of copending Application No. 10/575,905 has been withdrawn because the conflicting claims in the copending application have been canceled and no new claims directed to the subject matter of the instant invention have been presented in the copending application.
- 14. Applicant's claim amendments received December 22, 2010 have overcome all prior grounds of rejection.
- 15. Claims 6-13, 16, 18, 20, and 22-29 directed to an allowable product. Pursuant to the procedures set forth in MPEP § 821.04(B), claims 14, 17, 19, and 30-32, directed to

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the process of making or using an allowable product, previously withdrawn from consideration as a result of a restriction requirement, are hereby rejoined and fully examined for patentability under 37 CFR 1.104.

Because all claims previously withdrawn from consideration under 37 CFR 1.142 have been rejoined, the restriction requirement as set forth in the Office action mailed on March 24, 2009 is hereby withdrawn. In view of the withdrawal of the restriction requirement as to the rejoined inventions, applicant(s) are advised that if any claim presented in a continuation or divisional application is anticipated by, or includes all the limitations of, a claim that is allowable in the present application, such claim may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application. Once the restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are no longer applicable. See *In re Ziegler*, 443 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.

- 16. Claims 6-14, 16-20, and 22-32 are allowed.
- 17. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHAEL SZPERKA whose telephone number is (571)272-2934. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ram Shukla can be reached on 571-272-0735. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Michael Szperka, Ph.D. Primary Examiner Art Unit 1644

/Michael Szperka/ Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1644